

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 000460

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-01 OMB-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 /060 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/BC/C:AMISAACS:MG

APPROVED BY ARA/BC:WLOWENTHAL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 000460

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PFOR

SUBJECT: O'LEARY STORY

1. FOLLOWING JEREMIAH O'LEARY STORY APPEARED IN
WASHINGTON STAR-NEWS JANUARY 1.

2. QUOTE: SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER WILL GO
TO CHILE NEXT MONTH TO TELL THE MILITARY REGIME THAT THE
ABILITY OF THE ADMINISTRATION TO CONTINUE HELPING THE LATIN
AMERICAN NATION HINGES ON AN EARLY RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC
GOVERNMENT WITH RESTORATION OF FULL CIVIL LIBERTIES,
ACCORDING TO DIPLOMATIC SOURCES.

DISCLOSURE THAT KISSINGER PLANS TO VISIT THE CHILEAN
CAPITAL CAME AS A SURPRISE TO OFFICIALS WHO ARE ALREADY
ROUNDING OUT PLANS FOR THE SECRETARY'S FIRST TRIP TO SOUTH
AMERICA IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY.

THE DECISION FOLLOWS RECENT ACTION OF CONGRESS ELIMINATING
THE ADMINISTRATION'S MILITARY AID PROPOSAL FOR CHILE AND
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PAGE 02 STATE 000460

SHARPLY REDUCING THE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PACKAGE. THE

ADMINISTRATION HAD SOUGHT A TOTAL OF \$84.9 MILLION FOR CHILE, OF WHICH \$21.3 MILLION WOULD HAVE BEEN IN MILITARY

ASSISTANCE CONGRESS CHOPPED THE MILITARY AID ENTIRELY AND LIMITED ECONOMIC AID TO \$25 MILLION.

KISSINGER IS EXPECTED TO TELL GEN. AUGUSTO PINOCHET, PRESIDENT OF CHILE AND CHIEF OF THE MILITARY JUNTA WHICH SEIZED POWER IN SEPTEMBER 1973, THAT FUTURE U.S. ASSISTANCE DEPENDS ON THE MANNER IN WHICH THE ARMED FORCES RULES. THE CLEAR MESSAGE OF KISSINGER WILL BE THAT THE UNITED STATES CANNOT BE COUNTED ON FOR HELP UNLESS BOTH THE IMAGE AND THE POLITICAL REALITY OF CHILE DRASTICALLY CHANGES.

MORE THAN 15 MONTHS AFTER THE OVERTHROW AND DEATH OF MARXIST PRESIDENT SALVADOR ALLENDE, CHILE REMAINS UNDER MARTIAL LAW AND ABSOLUTE MILITARY RULE. PINOCHET AND THE OTHER LEADERS OF THE ARMED FORCES HAVE SAID THERE

MAY BE NO RETURN TO THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS FOR FIVE OR MORE YEARS.

THE CHILEAN JUNTA HAS BEEN UNDER CRITICISM ON A WIDE FRONT ON CHARGES OF SYSTEMATICALLY DENYING CIVIL LIBERTIES TO THE PEOPLE, KEEPING THOUSANDS OF CHILEANS AND OTHER NATIONALS IN PRISON FOR THEIR POLITICAL VIEWS, AND ALLEGATIONS OF SUMMARY EXECUTION OF ITS ENEMIES.

SEVERAL FOREIGN EMBASSIES STILL HOUSE POLITICAL REFUGEES, WHO HAVE TAKEN ASYLUM AND WHO HAVE NOT BEEN ALLOWED SAFE CONDUCT OUT OF CHILE. ALL POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN ABOLISHED, INCLUDING EVEN THE NATIONAL PARTY AND THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, BOTH OF WHICH WERE ANTI-ALLENDE.

THE SANTIAGO REGIME HAS TRIED TO IMPROVE ITS IMAGE IN A NUMBER OF WAYS, INCLUDING HIRING PUBLIC RELATIONS AGENCIES. IT HAS EVEN RECALLED ITS HARD-LINE RIGHT-WING AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES, RETIRED GEN. WALTER HEITMANN, WHO PROVED TO BE IRRITATING EVEN TO THE MOST DEDICATED ANTI-UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 000460

MARXISTS IN WASHINGTON'S DIPLOMATIC ARENA.

BUT THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT UNTIL NOW HAS REJECTED ALL OVERTURES FROM WASHINGTON THAT IT EASE THE TIGHT CONTROL IT RETAINS OVER THE LONGTIME DEMOCRACY AND THAT IT BEGIN THE PROCESS OF RESTORING THE NATION TO CONSTITUTIONAL RULE.

KISSINGER HAS A SPECIAL IDENTITY WITH CHILE SINCE HE WAS, AND STILL IS, CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY

COUNCIL'S SO-CALLED "40 COMMITTEE" WHICH APPROVED THE SPENDING OF BETWEEN \$8 MILLION AND \$11 MILLION BY THE CIA IN CHILE DURING ALLENDE'S THREE YEARS OF CONTRO.

KISSINGER WAS TESTIFYING AT HIS CONFIRMATION HEARING FOR SECRETARY OF STATE WHEN THE CHILEAN MILITARY ATTACKED ALLENDE'S PRESIDENTIAL PALACE ON SEPT. 11, 1973, AND OVERTHREW THE ELECTED GOVERNMENT WITH WIDESPREAD BLOODSHED.

THE CHILEAN JUNTA BROKE RELATIONS WITH CUBA, THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPEAN BLOC NATIONS. IN TURN, MEXICO RECENTLY BROKE RELATIONS WITH SANTIAGO. KISSINGER'S AIM IS TO ADVISE THE JUNTA THAT THE U.S. MOOD, ESPECIALLY IN CONGRESS, PRECLUDES THE KIND OF ASSISTANCE CHILE WANTS AND NEEDS SO LONG AS PRESENT CONDITIONS CONTINUE.

THE STOP IN CHILE WAS ADDED TO A MID-FEBRUARY TRIP TO SOUTH AMERICA THAT ALREADY INCLUDES VISITS TO CARACAS, VENEZUELA; BRASILIA, BRAZIL; LIMA, PERU, AND BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA. THE 15,000-MILE TRIP WILL TAKE FROM A WEEK TO 10 DAYS. UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, JOURNALISTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE000460
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AMISAACS:MG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750002-0928
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750182/aaaactvb.tel
Line Count: 140
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JAN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JAN 2003 by RicharJA>; APPROVED <10 FEB 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: O'LEARY STORY
TAGS: PFOR, CI, US, (O'LEARY, JEREMIAH)
To: SANTIAGO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006